

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-01 RSC-01 SS-07 NSC-06 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 2995

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ATTENTION REP. EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, CODEL IPU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN ATTENDANCE AT IPU MEETING BUCHAREST

REF: STATE 074135

APPEARS UNLIKELY THERE WILL BE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO IPU MEETING IN BUCHAREST APRIL 11-20 (REFTEL). FOLLOWING EXTENDED POLITICAL CRISIS, GOVERNOR GENERAL FORMALLY DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT APRIL 11, AND ELECTIONS CAMPGAIN FOR NEW PARLIAMENT WILL BEGIN APRIL 29. MEANWHILE, PRIME MINISTER AND OPPOSITION LEADERS HOLDING MEETINGS THIS WEEKEND TO DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR ELECTIONS.

WAS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE ANSWER ON AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION. PARLIAMENT TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD IS NOT MANNED, AND DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DUTY OFFICER IS NOT AVAILABLE. APRIL 12 AND 15 ARE NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN AUSTRALIA, AND THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL EXODUS OF CIVIL SERVANTS FROM CANBERRA FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND. DEPUTY SECRETARY (I.E., NO. 3 MAN) IN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, R. A. WOOLCOTT, TOLD EMBOFF MORNING APR 12 HE WAS ALMOST 100 PERCENT CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE NO AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION AT IPU MEETING. WILL CHECK AGAIN APRIL 16, WHEN WE CAN GET DEFINITE ANSWER.

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Message Attributes

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